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DISPATCH NO. EGB-A-30009

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TO : Chief, EE

DATE: 18 FEB 1956

INFO: COS

FROM : Chief of Base, Berlin

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational/BEDOX/BECRIPPLE/ []

SPECIFIC— Progress Report - Identity 1

Refs: (1) EGBA-27590 of 18 November 55
(2) EGBA-27732 of 23 November 55

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in cables*

1. Introduction: Since the last Progress Reports on Subject submitted per references, we have continued to use him as a DSU spotter and informant. His son, [] is now settled in the Fedrep and is working on a Rhine River barge. Two of Subject's DSU leads, Kurt SCHALWIG and Harry WALLE, whose association with Subject was compromised to the MfS by [], did not report back to BECRIPPLE-2 or Subject from October 1955 until January 1956. The third lead, Hermann STANGE, has not reported back since 2 October 55. On 30 December 55 the MfS apparently made an attempt to kidnap Subject's wife from West Berlin. Since that time Subject thinks he has been under irregular surveillance. We intend to resettle Subject and his wife in West Germany for security reasons.

2. Recent Activities: BECRIPPLE-2 has remained in contact with Subject since the [] affair and Subject has continued to supply us with operational information on the DSU. In addition, Subject still reports on each former sailing friend whom he meets in West Berlin. Because of [] involvement with the MfS which showed that Subject was under MfS observation, we have not attempted to meet with any of Subject's leads with the exception of continued development of the three individuals mentioned above.

3. Status of Harry WALLE: WALLE was met by BECRIPPLE-2 on 4 August and 1 October 1955. During the 4 August meeting WALLE was carefully briefed by BECRIPPLE-2 on the arrest and interrogation of []. BECRIPPLE-2 told WALLE exactly what [] had said to the MfS about WALLE's association with Subject. BECRIPPLE-2 reassured WALLE that [] had not told the MfS of WALLE's contact with BECRIPPLE-2 and BECRIPPLE-2 told WALLE never to admit this even under heaviest pressure. BECRIPPLE-2

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added that WALLE could admit the social meetings he had had with Subject during possible interrogation by the MfS, but that any admissions on Subject's part must stop at this point. WALLE was told never to return to Subject's home and was told to call BECRIPPLE-2 via the BEKING-13 telephone number to arrange meetings with BECRIPPLE-2. He was told to call the number only after making absolutely certain he was not under MfS surveillance. If WALLE determined he was under surveillance after entering West Berlin he was to make some small purchases in a West Berlin store and return immediately to East Berlin. After BECRIPPLE-2 went over all information with WALLE and instructed him exactly how to act during an MfS interrogation, WALLE returned to East Berlin. After the 4 August meeting WALLE returned to West Berlin on 1 October 1955 and was met again by BECRIPPLE-2. During this meeting BECRIPPLE-2 had no occasion to suspect that WALLE had in the meantime been arrested and turned against us by the MfS. WALLE returned to East Berlin after the 1 October meeting but did not report back to West Berlin until the afternoon of 5 January 56 when he appeared at Subject's home strictly against BECRIPPLE-2's explicit instructions. Subject was not at home at the time of WALLE's visit and Subject's daughter told WALLE that Subject was not expected to return soon. WALLE said he would come again but has not been heard from since.

Field Comments: The possibility exists that WALLE was arrested after the 1 October meeting with BECRIPPLE-2 and was sent to Subject's residence on 5 January 56 on some sort of MfS mission. WALLE could have been sent to Subject to determine Subject's reaction to the MfS kidnap attempt on Subject's wife, reported in para. 8 below. The possibility further exists that WALLE knew he was under MfS surveillance when carrying out the mission and he therefore did not attempt to call BECRIPPLE-2 by the BEKING-13 contact number. WALLE has not reappeared at Subject's house nor has he called the BEKING-13 contact number since 5 January. We assume that if WALLE had confessed to the MfS his association with BECRIPPLE-2, the MfS would have tried to double WALLE back and WALLE would have called in via the BEKING-13 number as he was instructed to do by BECRIPPLE-2.

4. Status of Kurt SCHALWIG: SCHALWIG was met by BECRIPPLE-2 on 2 September and was given generally the same briefing about the [] affair as was WALLE. SCHALWIG was told not to deny social contact with Subject during MfS interrogation but to deny ever having been introduced to BECRIPPLE-2 by Subject. BECRIPPLE-2 went over with SCHALWIG all details given the MfS by [] SCHALWIG was told to arrange meetings with [] via the BEKING-13 telephone number only and not to visit Subject in the future. He went back to the DDR the same day. SCHALWIG returned to West Berlin on 22 October 55 and gave BECRIPPLE-2 no indication that he had been arrested and turned by the MfS in the meantime. However, SCHALWIG did not report back to BECRIPPLE-2 from 22 October to 14 January 56. On 14 January SCHALWIG called the BEKING-13 number and BECRIPPLE-2 arranged to meet him by the rear entrance to the Botanische Garten in Steglitz at 1400 hours. Since it was suspicious that SCHALWIG had not reported in for so long (he is very interested in the money he receives from BECRIPPLE-2 and would not have let Christmas go by for no small reason), BECRIPPLE-2 had [] [] [], countersurveil the Botanische Garten meeting site. They did this and

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detected nothing out of the ordinary. After meeting SCHALWIG, BECRIPPLE-2 took him by taxi to a West Berlin Gasthaus for debriefing.

5. SCHALWIG said that he had been in Stettin only once since his last meeting with BECRIPPLE-2 on 22 October and on this occasion his barge did not load or unload in Stettin. The rest of the time he was transferred to a barge on the Elbe routes and transported coal between Fuerstenberg/Oder--Magdeburg--Coswig. SCHALWIG's barge continually was in tow and he could not find time to come to West Berlin for a meeting. SCHALWIG said that his new barge was the "Haniel", DSU registration number IV-222, 832 tons, one of the best of the DSU barge fleet. SCHALWIG added that the helmsman of his new barge, one (fnu) SCHULZ born ca 1919, lives Magdeburg, talks a lot but SCHALWIG has not yet been able to judge SCHULZ's political orientation since SCHULZ does not talk about politics. The barge itself has been in the water continually for 10 years and is now undergoing repairs at Schoenebeck. For this reason SCHALWIG finally was able to get to West Berlin to see BECRIPPLE-2 on 14 January.

6. During the debriefing of SCHALWIG, he mentioned that he had heard of the arrest for espionage of [] by Polish Security Forces in Stettin. SCHALWIG placed the time of []'s arrest as the beginning of November 55. As far as SCHALWIG knows, [] had not been returned to the DDR from Poland. SCHALWIG also had heard from other barge men that a former member of the DSU Stettin Office, one Frl. SCHULZ, who had worked with [], was arrested. (Field Comment: This undoubtedly is a mistake and should be the true name of [].) SCHALWIG said that he had heard that BETAFITE-2 was able to send SCHULZ to Genthin ([] permanent residence) with her personal belongings prior to his arrest. After [] arrest, [] deck hand, whose first name SCHALWIG thinks is Karl and who also is a resident of Genthin, attempted suicide on [] barge. (Field Comment: It seems that SCHALWIG also has mixed up the first name of [] deck hand, whose first name is Richard.)

Field Comment: During the 14 January meeting BECRIPPLE-2 questioned SCHALWIG closely about his activities since his last appearance in West Berlin on 22 October and BECRIPPLE-2 thinks SCHALWIG is telling the truth. SCHALWIG reported during his August meeting with BECRIPPLE-2 that he was slated for eventual transfer to the new barge "Haniel" and there seems to be no special significance to the transfer. SCHALWIG did or said nothing during the 14 January interview to arouse BECRIPPLE-2's suspicions that he may have been arrested and doubled in the interim. SCHALWIG returned to the DDR the same day and he was told to keep his ears open for more information on arrests in general of DSU employees. He was given no specific mission to perform. He will report back once his new barge is ready to travel, possibly sometime during February.

7. Status of Hermann STANGE: STANGE was met by BECRIPPLE-2 on 2 and 25 August 1955 and was also briefed on the arrest and interrogation of [] However,

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STANGE's briefing was handled by Subject instead of BECRIPPLE-2 since BECRIPPLE-2 attended the above two meetings in a passive capacity only. STANGE has been untruthful on operational matters to both Subject and BECRIPPLE-2 during past meetings and was mistrusted for this. For this reason STANGE was never given the BEKING-13 telephone number and still was met through personal contact with Subject. During the above meetings STANGE was told that we were still interested in obtaining waterway charts from him and he promised to try to bring them to West Berlin. STANGE returned to West Berlin on 2 October 55 and said that he still had not been able to procure the waterway charts. He said that he would try to get the charts and bring them to West Berlin on 10 October 1955. He has not been heard from since.

Field Comment: As stated above, both BECRIPPLE-2 and Subject caught STANGE in lies during meetings with him and the possibility existed that STANGE had been sent to Subject by the MfS or had been turned by the MfS sometime after he started meeting with Subject in West Berlin. We cannot explain STANGE's failure to report back to Subject other than that he became disinterested in Subject's offer to pay him for the waterway charts or else he was arrested by the MfS. If he had been an MfS agent all the time we think he would have returned for the scheduled meeting on 10 October.

Margaret Fischer

8. Kidnap Attempt on Subject's Wife: In November 55 Identity 2, Subject's wife, got a job with a West Berlin Contracting firm cleaning recently completed buildings. On 30 December 1955 at 1200 hours she went out one entrance of a newly constructed building across from the Schoenberg Rathaus with the intention of going in another entrance. As she was about to go back into the building a taxi pulled up to the entrance and a man got out. The man asked Subject her name and when Subject answered the man told her that her husband had just been involved in a serious accident and was calling for her at "the hospital." The man said that Subject had sent for her and that she should accompany him back to the hospital. After the previous MfS ruse of ☐ to draw Identity 2 into East Berlin and her failure to comply with the MfS instructions given her, both BECRIPPLE-2 and Subject had warned Identity-2 that an attempt might be made by the MfS to return her to East Berlin. Because of the warnings by BECRIPPLE-2 and Subject, and out of an intuitive feeling for danger, she jerked away from the man and ran back into the house. Once inside she looked back to see the man return to the taxi and drive away. She did not see the license number of the taxi but she says the man and the taxi driver were the only ones in the vehicle. She did not see the taxi driver clearly but she was able to describe the man as follows:

Born ca 1905, powerful build, about 1.80 meters tall, brown leather coat, brown hat pulled fairly far down over his forehead.

9. After finding out that Subject was all right and had not been involved in an accident, Identity 2 returned to work. Identity 2 is the victim of a heart disorder and the same day she passed out while standing on a footstool cleaning windows in the apartment building. She fell to the floor and received a brain concussion, spending the next two weeks in the Augusta Viktoria Hospital in Friedenau. To this date, she is confined to her home and is under the care of Professor Bernhard MARTIN, Berlin-Neukoelln, Karl-Marx-Strasse 108.

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Field Comment: Although BECRIPPLE-2 had no reason to doubt the above story, we sent [] on 2 February 56 to talk with Professor MARTIN. [] told MARTIN that he was a refugee official and that he wanted to determine whether or not Identity 2 was well enough for possible flight to the Fedrep. MARTIN told [] that he had attended Identity 2 since 23 January 56, the date of her release from the Augusta Viktoria Hospital. MARTIN verified that Identity 2 had had an accident the end of December 55 and that she was suffering from a head injury. MARTIN said that he felt that Identity 2 would be able to return to work about 16 February 56.

10. Surveillance of Subject: Since the kidnap attempt Subject has determined that he has been under periodic surveillance while going to and from work. BECRIPPLE-2, who has had quite a lot to do with surveillance during his lifetime, questioned Subject in detail about his suspicions and he thinks that Subject's claims are well-founded. Three persons suspected by Subject of following him on occasion to and from work are described as follows:

a. Male, born ca 1907, 1.70 m tall, powerful build, thinning blond hair, full face, light brown suit, light trench coat, yellow muffler, no hat, head looks small for his heavy build. Upon discussing the man with Identity 2, Subject does not think he is the same one who attempted to kidnap Identity 2.

b. Male, born ca 1905, 1.65 m tall, medium build, oval to full face, light green winter coat, black hat. Subject and Identity 2 also do not think that this man is identical to the man who attempted to kidnap Identity 2.

c. Female, born ca 1930, small figure, good looking, 1.55 meters tall, black hair, large glasses with dark brown rims, dark brown coat, always without hat and purse.

11. In addition, Subject reports that on 21 January 56 a man came to the bakery where Subject's 17-year-old daughter works and asked for her by last name. The daughter was not there at the moment, having been sent to a branch store in the neighborhood by the bakery owner. The man then asked the bakery owner for the address of the branch store and after receiving it, left in that direction. In the meantime, the daughter returned to the main store and was told about the unknown visitor. The daughter had been well informed of the previous kidnap attempt on Identity 2 and when the visitor returned again to the main store she watched him from a back room. The bakery owner told the man that the daughter had not returned and the man again left. Subject's daughter reported the above incident and when discussing the physical description of the man with Identity 2 she is sure that the visitor is identical to the MfS official who was present at the interrogation of Identity 2 in East Berlin on 28 July 1955 (Para 2 of Reference (1)).

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12. Conclusions: Since we have no reason to doubt the story told by Identity 2 of the kidnap attempt and since we also have no reason to doubt the surveillance suspicions of Subject, we must then conclude that the MfS still has an active interest in getting at BECRIPPLE-2 via Subject or members of Subject's family. We have also been able to check at least part of Subject's story by sending [] to interview the Doctor attending Subject's wife. We thus decided to attempt to persuade Subject to take his family and leave West Berlin. Subject's wife, who until this time wanted to stay in West Berlin, was ready to leave. But Subject still hesitated because he had been able to furnish a room in West Berlin since his arrival here and he hated to leave everything behind a second time. Subject did agree to write to his brother-in-law in Minden, West Germany, and inquire about employment on West German inland waterways. The brother-in-law later replied that he thought Subject would have no trouble whatsoever getting a job there but he would think Subject might have trouble finding temporary quarters for his family while getting the job. The brother-in-law volunteered to try to put Subject and his family up until Subject found a job but he suggested that Subject come alone to West Germany first to look over employment possibilities in person. Subject thus decided to move with his family to West Germany and he intends to leave sometime during the first part of March. We way-billed Subject to Frankfurt/Main on 10 February so that he could look over employment possibilities; he will return to West Berlin on or about 15 February.

13. Comments: We do not think it worthwhile to keep Subject in West Berlin and expose both members of his family and himself to further MfS kidnap attempts. We have dealt with Subject since 20 September 1954 and by now we have gotten at some of his leads, e.g., [], WOLLE, and SCHALWIG. However, due to the doubling of [] we cannot expect much more from Subject. It seems that his activities and the activities of members of his family are being taped at least periodically by the MfS and that sooner or later the MfS might be able to surveil Subject to his meetings with BECRIPPLE-2 in spite of the counter-surveillance measures BECRIPPLE-2 has instructed Subject to take before every meeting. In addition, any future DSU barge leads appearing at Subject's home or seen going there might also be picked up by an MfS surveillance.

14. Intended Action: BECRIPPLE-2 will meet again with SCHALWIG and WOLLE if they return to West Berlin and will take appropriate security precautions during any such meetings. Since there is a chance that both are still clean, we will not write them off prior to further contact, assessment, interrogation, and possible LCFLUTTER. Upon the departure of Subject from West Berlin we will no longer be able to meet STANGE, but contact with him was being maintained only to get the waterway charts from him and we should be able to obtain these from other sources.

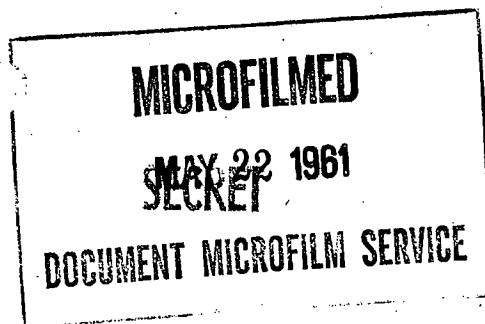
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24 FEB 1956

SEPARATE COVER ATTACHMENT to EGBA-30009

Identity 1 is Alfred FISCHER, Identified in EGBA-27538.

Identity 2 is Margarete FISCHER, also identified in EGBA 27538

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